to take any steps to enforce this obligation so long as the people remain more or less apathetic in the matter. In the absence of a very general popular demand in the matter, any Government interference is likely to be resented as an unjust invasion of the privileges of the Matts. Sometime ago an attempt was made by some influential persons to get the various Matts to contribute towards Vedantic teaching in Bangalore and Mysore, but except Sringeri and Parakala, no other Matt responded to the call at all. This would never have been the case had there existed a strong public opinion on the subject. The time apparently has not arrived for Government interference. More supervision of Government Muzarayi institutions by its officers will be ordered. But the utility of appointing local Panchayats is extremely doubtful and a sytem of Dharmakartas has proved a failure elsewhere. Government taking charge of institutions not now under Muzarayi management is out of the question. (See also Subject No. 112 below.)

Subject No. 6. Halat on Supari.

Summary of discussion.—The hardship of the existing halat of 12 annas per maund on supari in addition to the assessment on the land on which the supari is grown formed the subject of representation by representatives from all the Districts except Kolar. The following gentlemen spoke on the subject:—

Name.	Taluk.	District.
Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao	... Chikmagalur	... Kadur.
„ Nadig Swami Rao ...		
„ Narasingappa ...	} Hosnali...	... Shimoga.
„ Shanbhog Venkappa ...		
„ Hosadurga Seshachar ...	Holalkere	... Chitaldrug.
„ Saukar Rêvanna ...		
„ Patel Siddegauda ...	} T. Narsipur	... Mysore.
„ Venkatarangaiya ...	Hassan ...	...
„ Hanumanta Chetti ...	Arkalgud	... } Hassan.
„ Rachettappa ...	Maddagiri	...
„ Srinivas Rao ...	Pavagada	... } Tumkur.
„ A. Shamaiengar ...	Kunigal	...

Their representations were to the effect that with the heavy halat on the produce and a comparatively high assessment on the land, the margin of profit to the grower of arecanut was very small indeed. He was put to considerable expense first in growing the trees during the ten years which they took to come into bearing and afterwards in maintaining them; a garden required constant attention all the year round and the value of the product it yielded was insignificant compared with the expenditure of labor and capital. It pays a heavy land tax and the sayer in addition is most onerous. The system of sayer had also a demoralizing effect on the

producer as well as upon the collection agency. It involved the former waiting upon petty Government servants first to allow of the crop being inspected and estimated before it could be gathered, then to have every consignment weighed and passes taken when the nuts were sold or exported, then again to get those passes examined and verified at sayerkattes on the road or at the places of destination of consignments. The grower was liable to be called upon to account for the quantity as per estimate of crop and was suspected of smuggling what he could not thus account for. The vexation and loss thereby entailed were in proportion to the trouble and loss of time experienced on these occasions, which in the case of small growers were very great and in all cases were such that the Representative from Chitaldroog would advocate the abolition of halat altogether in the present prosperous condition of the finances of the State, while the members from Tumkur would prefer, if necessary, the halat being distributed over the cultivated area and recovered rateably by an additional acreage assessment. The Representative from Chikmagalur further pointed out that the *halat* system had the effect of placing the poor cultivator under the Saukar, particularly so in Koppa Taluk where the land assessment he stated was higher than in the neighbouring Taluk of Mudgere.

Dewan's reply.—Government are fully alive to the evils of the *halat* system, and are satisfied that relief of some kind is called for in the case of supari gardens in the Malnad. It is however a question which requires careful consideration as the revenue involved is large. The Dewan invited attention of the representatives to what he had stated on this subject in his Address and hoped that though no definite reply could be given at present, the question would be satisfactorily solved at an early date. The Government could not think of adding to the land tax in the Malnad so as to compensate for abolition of sayer. If sayer is at all to be abolished, it can only be by a gradual reduction of the rate of duty spread over a series of years so that the loss of revenue would be inappreciable.

Subject No. 7.

Railway from Kadur to Mangalore *viâ* Chikmagalur.

Summary of discussion.—A Railway from Kadur to Mangalore *viâ* Chikmagalur is worthy of consideration. All the traffic which now passes through the Bhund Ghat yields to Toll-Gate contractor an income sufficient to enable him to secure a profit and pay to Government on an average Rs. 3,400 per annum. In addition to all this traffic, what now passes through the Agumbe Ghat will also be diverted into this line. The country will be opened out and become more accessible to settlers. More than 50,000 acres of land fit for rice or coffee will be taken up for cultivation.